

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W
-----011325Z 022096 /42

R 011222Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4947
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIO DE JANEIRO 2496

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : PINT BR
SUBJECT : MILITARY FACTIONALISM

REF: SAO PAULO 1184 AND 1317 (NOTAL)

1. FOLHA DE SAO PAULO RIO BUREAU CHIEF ALBERTO DINES TOLD CONGEN POLOFF MAY 26 THAT GEISEL REGIME WAS UNDERGOING EXTREME STRESSES, PERHAPS GREATER THAN DINES HAD WITNESSED UNDER MILITARY GOVERNMENTS. DINES SAID THAT ASIDE FROM OVERRIDING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION POLITICS HAD BECOME FREE-FOR-ALL WITH ALL MILITARY HIGH COMMAND ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN PROMOTING EITHER THEMSELVES OR OTHER CANDIDATES TO SUCCEED GEISEL.

2. IN HIS VERSION, COMPETITION BETWEEN SNI CHIEF FIGUEIREDO AND OTHERS, PARTICULARLY DEFENSE MINISTER FROTA, WAS CREATING SERIOUS DIVISIONS WITHIN MILITARY. DINES SAID THAT SNI CHIEF HAD LEAKED INFORMATION CONCERNING CORRUPTION, SPECIFICALLY LUTFALLA CASE, IN ORDER TO WEAKEN GEISEL. CHIEF OF MILITARY HOUSEHOLD HUGO ABREU THIS WEEK HAD TOLD GEISEL THAT FIGUEIREDO WAS LEAKING INFORMATION ON CORRUPTION AND HAD INSISTED THAT FIGUEIREDO HAD GONE TOO FAR. ACCORDING TO DINES, CENTRO DE
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INFORMACOES DO EXERCITO (CIE) WILL SOON COUNTERATTACK AGAINST FIGUEIREDO BY FEEDING INFORMATION TO PRESS ON CORRUPTION BY MEMBERS OF MEDICI GROUP, WHICH IS BACKING FIGUEIREDO IN PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION BID.

3. DINES ALSO SAID THAT CORRUPTION CHARGES HAVE HAD DEMORALIZING EFFECT ON YOUNGER OFFICERS WHO ARE INCREASINGLY DISENCHANTED

WITH REGIME. WHEN ASKED ABOUT REPORT THAT GENERAL ABREU IS CONTRIBUTING ARTICLES CRITICAL OF FIGUEIREDO TO FOLHA UNDER PEN NAME OF JOAO DIAS CABRAL (SAO PAULO 1317), DINES SAID HE HAD ONLY DISCUSSED ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS WITH FOLHA MANAGEMENT SINCE HIS RETURN LAST WEEK FROM CONFERENCE IN US AND HE COULD NEITHER CONFIRM OR DENY THIS RUMOR. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT ABREU WAS "GRATEFUL" TO FOLHA PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF FOLHA'S MODERATE POSTURE VIS-A-VIS REGIME. WITH RESPECT TO ANOTHER CURRENT RUMOR (SAO PAULO 1184), HE SAID THAT GEISEL'S DAUGHTER CONTINUED TO SUFFER FROM PITUITARY GLAND PROBLEM WHICH WAS NOT CORRECTED BY HER RIO OPERATION LAST YEAR. DINES SAID THAT GEISEL NOW WAS ABRUPT IN HIS ACTIONS DISPLAYING LITTLE OF THE FINESSE WHICH HAD MARKED HIS PERFORMANCE HERETOFORE.

4. EMBASSY CONCURS.
SIMMONS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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